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COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
VICE CHAIR

JAMIE RASKIN  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

October 21, 2019

The Honorable James P. McGovern  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
H-312, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McGovern,

I am writing to request postponement of consideration of H. Res. \_\_\_\_, “Opposing President Trump’s decision to hold the 2020 G7 Summit at his Trump National Doral golf resort, and rejecting his practice of accepting foreign government Emoluments without obtaining Congress’ affirmative consent, and for other purposes.”

As you know, this Resolution condemns and opposes President Trump’s effort to shake down both foreign and U.S. governments for millions of dollars in funding for the Trump National Doral Hotel, a Trump Organization property, in connection with the upcoming G7 Summit. It also disapproves and repudiates the President’s extensive past and ongoing violations of the Foreign and Domestic Emoluments Clauses of the United States Constitution.

President Trump’s original decision to hold the 2020 G7 Summit at one of his properties would have been a brazen and thoroughgoing violation of the Foreign and Domestic Emoluments Clauses, which prohibit the President from accepting payments “of any kind whatever” from foreign states without prior Congressional consent and also categorically ban any payment to the President from the U.S. government beyond his official presidential salary. Were the G7 to have taken place at Trump National Doral, it would have compelled the unlawful expenditure of millions of dollars—perhaps tens of millions—in government funds to President Trump. The prospect of such towering lawlessness was too excruciating even for some Republican lawmakers who have grown accustomed to defending the indefensible and they joined with Democrats and an outraged public to decry this decision.

Late Saturday, President Trump grudgingly made the constitutionally and politically necessary decision to reverse course and has seemingly agreed for now not to hold the 2020 G7 at his Doral resort.

But, significantly, President Trump says that he was forced to back down not by the commands of the Constitution but by something he calls “Media & Democrat Crazy and Irrational Hostility.”

Thus, the President has learned nothing from this experience about the Constitution and our system of government and his reversal does nothing to alter the myriad past and continuing violations of the Emoluments Clauses that have been taking place since he took office. As everyone knows, President Trump continues to own multiple hotels, commercial and residential towers, resorts and business enterprises throughout the world – many of which have been accepting substantial payments and benefits from foreign states and the U.S. government (as well as possibly state and local governments) in violation of the Emoluments Clauses.

To take just one nation, Saudi Arabia reportedly spent at least \$270,044 for rooms at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. soon after Trump’s election, in addition to renting a large number of rooms at Trump International Hotel in New York for a delegation accompanying the Crown Prince in March 2018 and other annual payments related to space in Trump World Tower in New York. We know of at least 27 national governments that have done some type of business with President Trump.

No prior president to my knowledge has ever failed to come to Congress asking for consent to Emoluments received from foreign states and monarchs. This president has apparently been pocketing foreign Emoluments without our consent, and thus unlawfully, and sees nothing wrong with it, and we should manifest our disapproval quickly.

While I request a postponement given the President’s reversal on Doral and the corresponding need to redraft the Resolution, I reaffirm my commitment and that of my colleagues to hold President Trump accountable for these outrageous violations going forward and will ask you to resume consideration of this Resolution when we can bring it back at an appropriate time.

Sincerely,



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress